

For Immediate Release

## **“STAR” FACILITY ON MONTANA DINOSAUR TRAIL CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING MAY 7, 2005**

April 21, 2005 -- After nine years filled with hopes, plans, and plenty of hard work, the Fort Peck Dam Interpretive Center and Museum will have its Grand Opening on Saturday, May 7, 2005, beginning at 10 a.m. A unique, three-way partnership between the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Fort Peck Paleontology, Inc., and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has made this world-class interpretive center a reality.

The Fort Peck Interpretive Center and Museum is one of thirteen facilities in 10 central and eastern Montana communities that make up the newly organized Montana Dinosaur Trail ([www.mtdinotrail.org](http://www.mtdinotrail.org)). Each of the trail facilities feature unique paleontology displays, and many have paleontology programs and/or access to public field dig opportunities.

The May 7<sup>th</sup> Fort Peck Interpretive Center and Museum Grand Opening will kick off at 10 a.m. with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, where representatives of the three partners, congressional officials, and others who have worked to bring the Center online will speak. Following the ceremonies, the Center will open for public viewing, with a variety of exhibits that showcase the wildlife, history, paleontology, and recreational resources of northeastern Montana. The Grand Opening activities coincide with Lewis and Clark Bicentennial celebrations in nearby towns. The Center is located along the Missouri River near the Fort Peck Dam powerhouses.

The Center and Museum feature exhibits profiling the wildlife, paleontology, and cultural history of the Fort Peck area. A large paleontology exhibit features both a life-size fleshed out model of Peck's Rex (known as one of the world's premier T-rex specimens, discovered in 1997 near Fort Peck, MT) and a skeleton cast of this amazing discovery as well. Other dinosaur species make up the remainder of the paleontology exhibit. Another feature of the center are two large aquariums, one 8,500 gallons and the other 5,500 gallons, showcasing native and introduced fish species of Fort Peck Lake and the Missouri River.

More information about the Grand Opening, contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at (406) 526-3411, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at (406)-526-3464 or Fort Peck Paleontology, Inc. at (406)-526-3539. There is no admission charge for the Interpretive Center.

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The Fort Peck Dam Interpretive Center and Museum is one of the “star” facilities of the Montana Dinosaur Trail. The other twelve facilities include:

- Carter County Museum, Ekalaka
- Makoshika State Park, Glendive
- Makoshika Dinosaur Museum, Glendive
- Garfield County Museum, Jordan
- Fort Peck Paleontology, Inc., and Field Station, Fort Peck
- Phillips County Museum, Malta
- Dinosaur Field Station, Malta
- H. Earl Clack Memorial Museum, Havre
- Upper Musselshell Museum, Harlowton
- Two Medicine Dinosaur Center, Bynum
- Old Trail Museum, Choteau
- Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman

For more information about the Montana Dinosaur Trail, go to the trail’s web portal – [www.mtdinotrail.org](http://www.mtdinotrail.org) -- or contact any of the trail facilities or their tourism promotion partners that have developed the Trail’s print and website promotional materials:

Custer Country  
Box 1151  
Baker, MT 59313  
800-346-1876, [www.custer.visitmt.com](http://www.custer.visitmt.com)

Missouri River Country  
Box 387  
Wolf Point, MT 59201  
800-653-1319, [www.missouririver.visitmt.com](http://www.missouririver.visitmt.com)

Russell Country  
Box 3166  
Great Falls, MT 59403  
800-527-5348, [www.russell.visitmt.com](http://www.russell.visitmt.com)

Yellowstone Country  
1822 W. Lincoln  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
406-556-8680, [www.yellowstone.visitmt.com](http://www.yellowstone.visitmt.com)

Bozeman Convention and Visitors Bureau  
2000 Commerce Way  
Bozeman, MT 59715-7500  
406-586-5421, [www.bozemancvb.visitmt.com](http://www.bozemancvb.visitmt.com)

Malta Chamber of Commerce  
PhillCO Economic Growth Council  
Box 1637  
Malta, MT 59538  
406-654-1776, [www.maltachamber.com](http://www.maltachamber.com)

Parks Division  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701  
406-444-3750, [www.fwp.state.mt.us](http://www.fwp.state.mt.us)

Bureau of Land Management  
Montana State Office  
5001 Southgate Drive  
Box 36800  
Billings, MT 59107  
406-896-5000, [www.mt.blm.gov](http://www.mt.blm.gov)

Travel Montana  
Montana Department of Commerce  
Box 200533  
Helena, MT 59620-0533  
1-800-VISITMT (847-4868), [www.visitmt.com](http://www.visitmt.com)